HEAVEN'S METAL

VOLUME I

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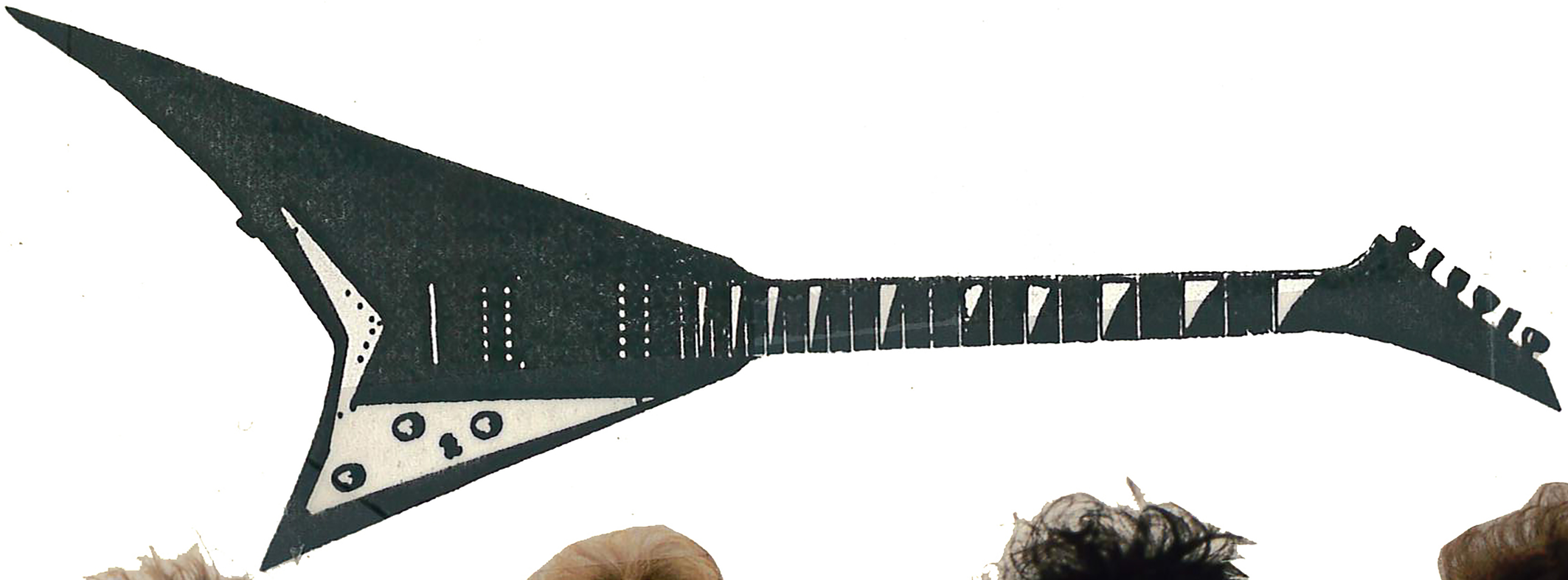

Stryper set their own attendance record Saturday, April 12th, at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington. Nearly 12,000 stood on the park's parking lot for the 100-minute show.

"Outdoor shows are totally different," says Oz. This gig was certainly different. There were at least 14 cabinets on each side of the stage and the crowd looked like a typical outdoor-festival audience. There were no bleachers, so the crowd stretched back about as far as a football field.

The show went off really well, with Stryper playing three encores: YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, YOU WON'T BE LONELY and SOLDIERS UNDER COMMAND. "My favorite thing," says Oz, "was to see the support of everyone."

The concert was right under the flight pattern of one of Dallas' airports. The passengers in the planes surely heard the noise the crowd was making. If all the rest of Stryper's shows go like this, it won't be long until every rock 'n' roller hears the message of Jesus.

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I had a chance to talk to some of the boys before the show. It was an enjoyable, relaxing time. Some reporters are shocked when they discover that a rock musician, like Ozzy Osbourne or somebody, is really a nice guy. Many times, though, a writer for a Christian magazine will interview a Christian artist and expect him or her to be super nice. They often take the Christian musician's kindness for granted. Robert Sweet, his brother Mike, Oz Fox and Timmy Gaines are all super nice guys.

It would be too nosey to peer into their private lives, but if we were to look inside the prayer lives of each member of Stryper, the fruit I've seen from them causes me to feel that we would find a very personal and intimate fellowship between God and His yellow and black clothed children.

Stryper is nearing the end of the second leg of the Soldiers Under Command tour. They've had a few interesting things happen to them in the past year. "The lead singer for Yngwie Malmsteen's band, Jeff Scott Soto, got saved," says Timmy. "In fact, he came out and sang with us at Magic Mountain in California. He left the band 'cause of the convictions and everything that he felt from the Lord. I guess he's got his own band together now and he's gonna be coming out doing some stuff. I don't know if it's gonna be a Christian band or anything."

"When we were in Baton Rouge," says Oz, "we invited the Jimmy Swaggert Ministries down. You know how Jimmy Swaggert's against Christian rock 'n' roll and stuff. We sat there and talked with 'em after the show for about two hours. They ended up praying with us and praying for our group and everything. It was really cool."

Robert freaked out after this happened. He tells us "I once said, 'Jimmy Swaggert one day is going to hold up one of our records on one of his television shows.' He has a huge viewing audience, like a hundred million people. He's gonna hold up a Stryper record and say 'These guys are okay.' And guess what? At Baton Rouge eight people from Jimmy Swaggert came out to see us. I was blown away."

Special thanks go to Shanna Lea, a disc jockey at San Jose's KSJO. We were both chatting with Steve Camp in Austin and we found out that each of us was going to Dallas the next day to talk to Stryper. We both ended up talking with Robert Sweet

at the same time. The following interview with Robert resulted.

Stryper appeared on the Dove Award Thursday April 10th, on CBN. They performed MAKES ME WANNA SING and received a standing ovation. "That's something that's never happened to any rock band that's played the Dove Awards," says Robert. "I remember looking out and seeing my mom and dad out there. They looked like they were gonna cry. That made me feel WEIRD!"

Pat Boone commented afterwards that "Millions of American kids love their music that loud and that frantic. They're either gonna go see Motley Crue or The Rolling Stones or maybe Stryper. Guess who I'd rather them see?"

"He's such a nice guy," says Robert. "I cannot believe it. Two years ago I said to Oz and Mike and Tim. and I think I told my mom, who is our manager, 'Some day this list of people we are going to meet and this list of people are going to be behind what we do.' I said, 'Pat Boone.' That's two television shows we've done with him now. (America, Dove Awards)

"I can't believe it. Almost everything I've said is coming true. I remember with Tim and Oz. I said, 'Oz would be the first to get married and Timmy would be second and Michael will be third.' Oz got married first, Tim got married second, now rock magazines are announcing that Mike will be the next one that will end up getting married."

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"We just got a deal signed with Capital Records. What it means is that we're still on Enigma, but it's Enigma/Capital. So Capital is going to be doing all the distribution. Enigma has good distribution, but it's nothing like the majors. So, now we have major distribution. It's really gonna kick everything off. It will make all the difference in the world. You know what? I heard that the Dove Awards had a viewing audience of 30 million people. That is a big audience. They're expecting that that might push the record to gold, with the distribution of Capital kicking in next month. That would be nice."

The current tour ends May 3rd. After that the band will take three weeks off and than start rehearsing for their new album, which will be called TO HELL WITH THE DEVIL. They are gonna do a new video also.

"It'll take probably a month and a half to do it," says Robert. "We did the Soldiers album in about 2½ weeks. I did all my drum tracks in eight hours, for the whole album, which isn't done. It's usually three or four days for big bands just to get a drum sound."

Issue #5 of Heaven's Metal reported that Stryper is going to remix and re-release THE YELLOW AND BLACK ATTACK as a full length album. This isn't exactly the case. "It won't be made into a full album, it's just going to be released as a special edition thing. There's been stores that've called up, who've said 'Any special edition stuff that you send out, kids buy.' Like if you send out a picture disc or special color vinyl record or whatever, that's what a lot of stores have requested. So we went back in and remixed THE YELLOW AND BLACK ATTACK. We've always wanted to do that. We kinda changed the cover on it. The front cover is supposed to be shrunken down smaller with a black lip around it. On the back it shows the whole planet earth at night. You can see the lights on the continents and each one of us is standing on a continent. We'll probably ship 100,000 of 'em out just for a special item type thing."

Robert shared with me the day THE YELLOW AND BLACK ATTACK EP was released, the summer of 1984, that the cover signified God commissioning Stryper. "Each rocket has our initials on it. See how the whole world is striped? God is telling us, 'See, the work has already been done, you just gotta go out and do it.'"

After the album is released, which Oz says should be in September, they will go on a world tour. "It starts in Japan," says Robert, as he reels off a list of countries, "goes to Australia, goes all the way through Europe, including Germany, Switzerland and England. Then it comes back to the states and goes all the way through the states. It's gonna be a real big tour, compared to this one and this one's a decent-sized tour--five months."

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RICK CUA

Rick Cua is borderline metal. His YOU'RE MY ROAD album has a few hard rockin' numbers. DON'T SAY SUICIDE has enough shouting and meaty guitar leads to find a home in any heavy metal collection. ONE CHILD IN PAIN has some subdued metal guitar in the mix. YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE has some great metal riffs and a driving rhythm. CAN'T STOP has a good, simple, fast and loud lead break near the end. HOUSE CALLS starts off like a Phil Collins song, with some solid drumming.

Rick was delighted to find out that he was being given coverage in Heaven's Metal. He had his YOU'RE MY ROAD album reviewed in Metal Forces. He wants to venture more into the metal sound.

Rick used to play bass for "Florida's guitar army," The Outlaws. "That band was a big change for me," says Rick, "because I was in local bands all my life up in Syracuse, New York. Going into a band like The Outlaws was my first taste of 'the big time:' first class plane flights, limos, tour buses, touring all over the world, gold records, all of that all at once.

"It wasn't like overnight success for me, cause I had been playing for many, many years. This happened in 1980. It was like I always imagined it would be. They were great guys, really nice people. I enjoyed 'em a lot. I knew the Lord at the time. I got saved in '77, joined The Outlaws in 1980. I really felt confident that the Lord wanted me there, cause we really prayed about the gig an awful lot. The Lord gave me a lot of experience. He helped me build more of a following, so it would be easier to springboard from The Outlaws into my own career. Very possibly, a lot of people that are not saved, that knew me with The Outlaws, will be more apt to listen to me now, than someone else they didn't know. So it really worked for good as far as the future for me.

"A lot of people assume 'how could a guy be saved and play in a secular rock 'n' roll band?' It's just a thing where all I ever did was play music. I was a musician. From '77 to the time when I did my first Christian record in 1982, I was a musician. If there was a gig available, I'd check it out. If it looked like it was halfway decent, the guys were nice, the money was good, I'd go perform. There wasn't any seperation. I was a musician. That was the long and short of it.

"It wasn't until I started doing my own records that I realized, 'Well, it's not important whether we're in secular music or Christian music. What is important is what we're singing about and the message that we're singing. If we're lifing up evil and things that are not of God, then we've got a problem. But if what we're lifting up is God's ways and Christian views and just life in general, but on a positive note, I think that, if it's coming from the heart of a Christian, then I consider that a Christian song.

"I grew up a Catholic in Syracuse, New York. I came from a very strong Italian Catholic background. My wife, Diana, got saved in '72. For five years she really prayed very heavily for me, for my salvation. In '77, after all that diligence on her part, the Lord really touched me and I got saved." Praise God!

"Basically, what drew me, as a person, was seeing the love of God's people in action at the church we started going to and knowing that I wasn't capable of loving other people with that love. It had to come from God and I didn't have that ability and really wanted it. I could see how genuine it was in

other people's lives. It made a big difference.

"Little by little I started praying and asking God, 'Lord, if you're real, you know I want to do the right thing here.' I wish I could remember what some of my prayers were. I really wish I could hear myself, not knowing Him the way I do now. It's an interesting thing to think of. Now I have a whole different perspective than I did then. But even then I prayed. I always prayed. All my life. It's just that I didn't have the real personal relationship with God.

"I like to get a lot of good friends on my albums. People that have the same mindset as I do, as far as what the music needs to be like. On my first album, Robbie Dupree and Jimmy Hall played on it, as well as all my buddies from Syracuse: Laryy Arlotta, Ron De Rollo Ian Barinson-from Alan Parsons played on NO MYSTERY. On the YOU'RE MY ROAD album, Bob Halligan Jr. and Dave Perkins played on it. The new album will be produced by Dave Perkins."

Concerning the common vision amongst his players on an album, Rick says, "When I was talking to Dave Perkins, he basically says it like this: 'We need to write the same song ten times.' In other words, it needs to be focused. I love variety and I love to get variety in there so that it's fresh, but yet we need a strong focus on the direction of the music. I think each album came together a little more. The first album we had the real rock on it and we had some mellow things. The NO MYSTERY album, we had a ballad or two. This last album we had a couple of ballads and the rock stuff. This, album. if we have any ballads at all, they're gonna be real rock ballads. So this one is gonna be the most honed-in rock album that I've done.

"You've got some of these albums that are really conceptualized. Every song is fresh and great and they have their differences, but it's basically almost the same one done ten times. That's an exaggeration, but it gets the point across, as far as what we are truly looking to do.

"Being out there and realizing what your audience is and what the Lord's saying to ya, that's where the musical direction comes from. The Lord's definitely telling me to play rock 'n' roll and to a young audience, the audience that I relate to. In order to do that, I need to just zero in on them a 100%, that's about what I'm going to do."

++What purpose do you see your music as meeting?

"The purpose that I see it meeting is to fill the gap out there and fill in the holes between the music that is secular rock, that the kids really love, and what we call 'Christian rock,' that a whole bunch of it isn't rock 'n' roll at all. So I wanna get in there and I wanna be doing the same kind of music that I did when I was in a secular group. In all my life, the same kind of rock I ever did, only with a message that's the message of Jesus. I want to reach out to the kids that think that it can't be good unless it's wordly. So many of us and, even as a musician, I must admit I had my share of time thinking that Christian music was sub-par, but it's changing. I really wanna be a part of that change."

++What's the biggest burden on your heart right now?

"Probably the teen suicide. That whole issue and the kid that despairs and the depression amongst young people. I just want to cheer 'em all up and let 'em know, 'Hey, we all got problems, but the Lord is there for us.' The suicide thing has been a big, big issue. I'm really praying these days that the Lord will reveal to me what He wants me to do on this next album as far as what issues need to be tackled. What needs to be said? What are people out there waiting to hear? I know there's something we need to say. DON'T SAY SUICIDE was a real important song for this year. I know that there's another important issue or two that we need to kind of say. I don't want to do it for the sake of doing it. In other words, DON'T SAY SUICIDE was on the last album, now I've gotta have another one on this album. I won't do any of 'em. I'll do ten Christian party songs before

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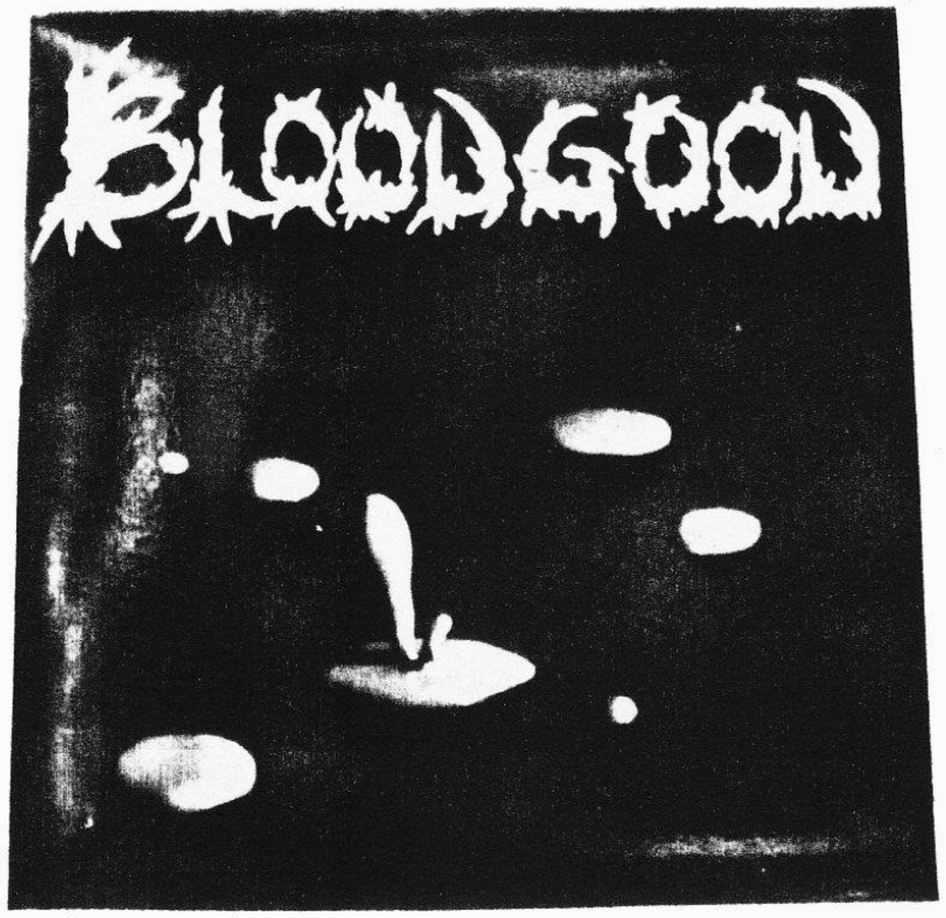

Darrell Mansfield, I tip my hat to you. You've done a terrific production job for this very qualified metal outfit. ACCEPT THE LAMB starts off this metal masterpiece. The new mix is a 100% improvement over the METAL MISSIONARIES custom tape. The chorus, which repeats "Accept the Lamb of the Living God/ Accept I Am He's the Living God," has more meat and bones to it than the higher-pitched version on the custom tape. The rhythm throughout the song is also stronger than the previous mix. All three songs on this album that were on the METAL MISSIONARIES tape, ACCEPT THE LAMB, ANGUISH AND PAIN and AWAKE!, are vastly improved. (The song BATTLE OF THE FLESH is the only song on METAL MISSIONARIES that didn't show up on this one.)

This version of AWAKE! includes a melodic interlude that wasn't on the custom tape. The pace slows down as David Zaffiro picks the strings with his fingers. Les Carlsen shows us his vocal diversity as he gently sings out Jesus' prayer: "My Father, Hallowed be Thy Name/ My Lord, this is what I pray/ Not my will, but Your's be done/ You're my Father, I'm Your Son."

STAND IN THE LIGHT is the second song on this album. It starts off with a beautiful, piercing guitar lead that prepares the ears for the strong vocals. This song is one of the many standouts on this album and of all Christian metal, for that matter. The chorus has an anthem feel to it. "Stand in the light-of the Lord." What can I say? David tears it up every chance he gets. This guitar work reminds me of Ted Nugent at his 1977 best. Added tricks in the mix here include some echo in the chorus.

DEMON ON THE RUN starts off with a great guitar riff. The triumphant confidence portrayed in the lyrics of this song is also present in the music. The lyrics teach us a lesson about spiritual warfare: "The Lord has taken command/ The Kingdom of God is at hand/ He lives in you and me/ Oh the Lamb has set us free/ By the power of His grace/ Only He reserves a place/ For each and everyone/ Who believes in His Son/ Demon on the run...Demon,demon you've been screamin'/ He's got ya on the run/ Demon, demon you've been beaten/ By the Son." The lesson learned is that the war has been won by Jesus. "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him." (Collosians 2:15)

Another lesson on spiritual warfare is my favorite song on the album, SOLDIER OF PEACE. It starts off with a drum cadence that sounds like a military drummer and heads right into the bold challenge against Satan. The song is basically a testimony of a person who once was on the devil's side of the war. "I turned my back on the devil/ 'Cause Jesus broke my chains/ Now I live for His glory/ Shout whenever I can, Yah!" The chorus is very clear in its message. There's no room for apathy in these words: "Soldier of Peace/ Soldier of light/ Look out Satan/ 'Cause I'm coming to fight!" We can be confident in this fight because Jesus tells us "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matt 28:18) The back of the album has the following quote: "This album is dedicated to the Author of Life and it serves as a warning to all...the day of judgement is at hand! The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." (1 John 3:8)

KILLING THE BEAST continues the album's theme of overcoming in spiritual warfare. Rick Cua would be proud that the theme of this album is constant throughout. The next song, BLACK SNAKE, emphasizes the eternal destiny of Satan-"the black snake of rebellion." The chorus leaves the listener with the

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The long-awaited live album from Jerusalem. Available on records and high quality cassettes.

Refuge

Robert has some future plans for his drumset. "When you're visual timekeeper, you have to have a drumset that holds up to that title. So, next tour, which is going to be called the TO HELL WITH THE DEVIL tour, I'm gonna have a drumset that's gonna look really cool. This one's fine. It got a picture in People Magazine, of just the drums.

"I like trying to think of different things for my drums. I just don't like boring drumsets. I have an idea of having a slide that slides down into the seat, where I slide in on the slide and land on the drum seat. Another idea is to have electronic drums built into the floor and I'll stand up and tap dance on the drums during a solo. Everytime my feet hit the drums they're going off. There's a cage I want to build to crawl up over the drumset and be goofing around. Just all kinds of weird things just to have fun and that aren't usually thought of. When you see most drummers in a band, they're just sitting back there playing, you know, and that's about it. So, right now I'm a little bit limited. You know," he laughs, "I need another fifty, sixty or $70,000 and I'll be able to do some of this stuff."

++The question of the year: Where did you get the name "Visual Timekeeper" from?

"It's just a name I thought up. Every drummer is a timekeeper, but most of them aren't too visual. So, I just like the way it sounded. I'm trying to make it whenever people say I'm a drummer, that I tell them 'No. That title is gone. Those are the old days. It's visual timekeeper.' I like it. I'm pretty happy with it. I don't know of any other drummers that are nicknamed something like that. Do you?"

Robert thinks that soon other drummers are going to start playing sideways. "I was doing this back in 1979, when we were playing clubs in Hollywood. I went to see Nightranger before they got big. I went into the club and I went 'Oh no! He's turned sideways.' But he wasn't really turned sideways. It was just like this caddy-corner thing and he was off in this corner. I don't know. I guess he just started doing it the same time I did. He's a little bit different though, because he sings and that's why he turns his drums sideways. I guess we're the only two that do it, but I bet you anything there are going to be other drummers that start doing that. I know it. They're going to rip us off," he says jokingly.

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Timmy Gaines just got married at the beginning of February. When asked "How's the married life?" He answers, "I don't know. I had to go on tour two weeks after the wedding. I'm excited about getting home."

Robert turned 26 on March 21st. The audience in Pasadena, Texas sang Happy Birthday to him. The roadies hit Robert with a pie in the face while he was being interviewed after the show.

"Life on the road," says Robert, "is hectic Heaven. It's neat, but it's very hectic. Sometimes it's even Hell in Paradise. What I mean by that is: it's fun, I love it. I totally love it, but there's some days where you get to bed at four in the morning. You've gotta get up early the next morning, you have a string of interviews. You're totally tired and you gotta go back and sound-check and then you realize, You thought you were supposed to go on at nine. 'Oh my gosh! We're going on at seven. I don't have time to eat dinner.' Then you rush in and you get dressed. You've got a television thing after the show. 'Oh no! My hair's all messed up. I can't believe it. My makeup's all sweated off. Now I've gotta do t.v.' Then you go do t.v. and you walk out and you've got people picketing the show: 'You're of Satan! What you're doing's wrong!' Now, those days happen every now and then, but it's fun. But it's not all glamour, glamour, money, money, sign autographs, play, get on the bus and have joy and fun. There are times when it gets a little rough."

Robert says that they have great control over what they do. They're not puppets under the control of a record company. "So far we have 100% control. If we don't want to do it,

I tell our agency we don't want to tour now. It's pretty much a thing where we're pretty much in charge."
++What would you like to tell young people who are having problems?

"For the person who doesn't know God and has a problem, you've gotta go to the problem-solver, which is Jesus. For those who've already gone to the problem-solver, just keep your eyes on Him. The only time you really run into a problem is when you get your eyes off God. Then you can be found in a situation where it's gonna be hard for you to do what's right. When you keep your eyes on the Creator and off the creations, you're pretty much okay most of the time.

"The Christian who stops praying, stops reading the Bible, it starts getting harder to do what's right. So just keep your eyes on Jesus. I know maybe that sounds vague, but it's the truth of the whole matter. You need to constantly be reading your Bible, praying and just say

to yourself 'There's certain things I'm not gonna do. I'm not gonna do this and I'm not gonna do that. Cause, if I do, it's not gonna look like I'm a Christian and it's not gonna make God happy. Pretty soon there won't be any difference in me and the people around me.' That's one thing we have to be very careful of. I'm telling you, people look at us through a microscope."

About Stryper's audiences, which are usually half saved and half "not-yet," Robert says, "If someone who's a Christian can benefit from what we're doing, that's great. Our thing is to especially talk to the people who aren't saved. But, I mean, we don't shove Christians in the corner, don't put them in the back seat."

"Pray that we stay strong," says Oz. "Pray that we can win more people to the Lord through the ministry, that we'll be examples to a lot of people that don't know Jesus."

In the next issue of Heaven's Metal, look for the exclusive, detailed and inside story of how Stryper came into being. Included will be an exclusive interview with Kenny Metcalf, who plays keyboards behind stage for Stryper on their current tour.

777

Bloodgood cont'd

life-giving Word: "He who is in me is greater/ Than he who is in the world."

A week hasn't gone by that I haven't played this album two or three times. I made a tape with this album on one side and Barren Cross' ROCK FOR THE KING on the other. These two albums will go down in Christian metal history as pillars of <u>real</u> metal for Christ. If you would like to order: a Bloodgood t-shirt (Black in S,M,L,XL) send $8; a square button-$2; an 8x10 BxW glossy-$2; a copy of METAL MISSIONARIES-$6. Mail to Metal Missionary Headquarters, PO Box 6023, Bellevue, WA 98008-0023

Golgatha

By David Johnson

Golgatha is a Christian metal band based in San Leandro California and plays San Francisco style heavy metal. This means the guitars are up front and wimpy vocal harmonies are nonexistent.

The Other Place, a Christian rock club in Danville, was the sight for a concert featuring Golgatha and Revelation. The latter opened the show with their steady, medium tempoed style of very heavy metal. Too bad Revelation didn't have a tape for sale.

Golgatha came on next and were simply brilliant! From the opening number, Prisoner, to the closing number, At The Foot Of The Cross, Golgatha performed hard driving, uptempo metal at its' best!

After the concert, I set up an interview for two nights later at Golgatha's studio.

As I arrived Monday night, they were working on a new song, so I sat and listened. The song sounded like an uptempo Judas Priest tune but heavier featuring a killer riff.

After their practice, I interviewed Adam Alvarez, bassist and main spokesman for Golgatha. (Note: Mark Cassettari was present for the first half and Gary Gladson for the second half.)

++The previous time I saw Golgatha in February, you were a 4-piece. Last Saturday, you were a 5-piece. Who is the new member?

Adam:The guitatist who we recently added, is the original guitarist who started out with the band, Gary Gladson.

++Who is the guitarist on the Prisoner tape?

Adam:Gary Gladson plays guitar on the tape. Todd Price replaced him and once Gary was ready, he came back and now both guitarist exist in the band. Tony Crider has left the band. April 26 was his last show

++Why did he leave?

Adam:He has other plans and other ideas how things should go. It was just differences. In the Word it says, "How can two walk together unless they be agreed." That is basically what was going on. The majority of the band had other ideas that he didn't want to agree to.

At this point, Mark Cassettari informs me he is the new drummer as of February.

++So you are looking for a new lead singer?

Adam:We're looking for a new lead singer. God's called us all to this and everything is falling into place. We're looking for a singer with a very professional attitude and somebody who has a little credibility behind him.

Mark:Someone willing to work and compromise.

++You were in Trauma.

Adam:I played in my share of heathen bands for the last seven or eight years. I was in Trauma, Marauder, and Initial Shock.

++Is the Prisoner tape still available?

Adam:The Prisoner tape is still available. As for as New Renaissance Records, they are looking for more Christian bands to put on that one album. I think they want sixteen bands.

++Which two tracks by Golgatha are going to be on this Heavy Righteous Metal compilation album?

Mark:Prisoner and Follow Me.

++What is happening with the Rock 'Till The Final Day LP?

Adam:It probably isn't going to be called that after all. That was one of our lead singer's songs and that one song went with him. The only holdup form recording the LP, is a lead singer.

++When you get a lead singer, are you going to make a demo first?

Adam:Yea, we'll do a demo tape to shop record companies. We have a few record companies on hold right now. As far as our next demo goes, we'll probably sell it. It will have, more than likely, eight songs on it.

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TRADING POST

+ HEAVEN'S METAL IS NOW SELLING REFUGE RECORDS THRU THE MAIL! This is due to reader's letters expressing a difficulty in obtaining albums by The Daniel Band, Jerusalem, 3D, Edin Adahl, and soon bands like Matrix. If you'd like records or tapes from any of these bands, send $8.98 plus $1 postage to Heaven's Metal. Orders will be processed as soon as possible.

+ THE FRONTRUNNER (metal) SINGLE is still available for $1.50. Send to Heaven's Metal.

+ KOSHER RECORDS can get you hard-to-find Christian imports. Contact Larry Miller @ 319 A N. "J" St. Lompoc, CA 93436

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+ THE ZINE OF THE TIMES - Covers Christian punk. Only $5 for 6 issues. Make checks and money orders payable to: David Joo, ZOTT, P.O. Box 33, Stirling City, CA 95978

+ VORTEXX - Music Magazine covering Christian new-wave, metal, rock, jazz and avante-garde. Also buy, sell or trade hard to find Christian records. Send $2 for a sample issue or $6 for a 6-issue subscription to: Vortexx, 12129 Genesee St., Alden, NY 14004

+ BACK ISSUES OF HEAVEN'S METAL - 75¢ each.

+ DRUMMER AND GUITARIST NEEDED to start Christian "Rush-type" powerband. Send demo and personal info to: Bruce Campbell, P.O. Box 4944, Casper, WY 82601

+ PHILADELPHIA - S albums/cassettes and t-shirts for $8 each. Also cassettes of TELL THE TRUTH for $8. Buttons and stickers are $1. 8x10 photos are $2.50. Add $1 for postage on buttons, stickers and photos only. Make checks payable to "Philadelphia" 7212 Union St. Shreveport, LA 71106

+ LEVITICUS - THE STRONGEST POWER albums/cassettes for $9. LET ME FIGHT EP is $3. I SHALL CONQUER albums-$9. Posters-$2. Badges-$1. I SHALL CONQUER t-shirts-$9. Send checks to Leviticus Forces Fan Club, c/o Lennart Söderlund, Gamlakung suägen, 53B, 54132, SKÖVDE, Sweden

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Pictured above is The Daniel Band taking a break while recording their new album, RISE UP, in Toronto's Phase One Studio. Left to right are: Geoff Bagg, the band's live sound technician; Bill Findlay, rhythm guitar; Tony Rossi, lead guitar; Matt Del Duca, drums; Dan McCabe, lead vocals and bass; and Mark Wright, recording engineer.

Silence...interrupted by a typically-obnoxious (for rock 'n' roll) scream. This is how The Daniel Band's new album, RISE UP, starts. The first song, BETHEL, is a driving rocker that doesn't slow down for a breather. It's not a blazing-fast thrash metal number, but it is unrelenting. We can really hear Dan McCabe growl for the first time in this song. This number ends with a few good cat calls coupled with drumming cadences.

RISE UP, the second song, starts off with a riff that seems to make the listener travel to a different emotional level. The rhythm is very

catchy without seeming pop. The lyrics have a great theme--depending on J Jesus, and His faithfulness. "You may be grieving/ It doesn't mean you've lost it all/ Remember Jesus/ He always hears us when we call/ We're gonna rise up, rise up!... stop your hiding and start abiding in the vine."

There is a great break where the drum and bass are soloing the same beat. The melodic-sounding guitar cuts in to start soothing the emotions. This song has good radio airplay potential.

The next song, DON'T WALK AWAY, shows that distorted bite that Christian metal needs more of. This is a happy, heavy rocker! It's basic, with a real good rhythm, but hot. There's a good lead break in the middle of the song where the drums and the guitar trade licks. I think this album shows a definite decision by The Daniel Band to go metal. The lyrics are a serious warning to heed the voice of The Spirit when He talks: "Alone in the darkness/ The night's spreading all around you/ But the light coming thru/ One more time/ Don't walk away/ Don't go astray."

"Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness.'" (Heb 3:7,8)

The next number starts off melodic. Tony is picking a lot of strings while holding the same chord. The drums are creeping up until the band hits the chorus: "Living in Paradise." The song turns more agressive after this. There's some good guitar work that sounds like Tony improvising. He adds some chorus to his guitar before the song trails off.

The next song, FIGHT BACK, starts off with a loud guitar rhythm, followed by some synthesizer riffs that pierce the noise. Remember Aldo Nova's song FANTASY? This is similar to that. The song is an encouraging one that is aimed toward the Lord: "Jesus, help me fight back."

CALL HIS NAME is a no-holds barred rocker. This song has a verse that keeps resounding in my mind: "Ooh, He really loves you." After they sing this line, they conclude "So call on Him today! Call His Name." The guitar is going nuts throughout the entire song. This song even has a pause where Dan grunts out an animal-like "Uh!" I think we can call The Daniel Band metal, because of this album.

ROCK YOU is another rocker, but has a slower tempo than the previous ones. "We rock you in the name of love" is what they declare. The last two songs are ballads, something The Daniel Band knows how to do well. They have at least one or two on every album. I'M SORRY from ON ROCK, COME INTO MY LIFE and IN MY MIND on STRAIGHT AHEAD, plus IT'S OVER and the title-track from RUN FROM THE DARKNESS.

MY CHILDREN starts off with the piano and is a message from our Lord. "I don't want to see you cry on someone else's shoulder/ And I don't want to see you hanging on to people and things that quickly fade./I made the moon my children/ And I placed it in the sky/ I held your hand when you were lonely/ I put the sparkle in your eye/ Who loves you children/ Who loves you more and more/ Who could love His children more than Me?" The electric guitar steps in here to emphasize the same verses. This time Tony sings the verses. This song is a classic.

RIGHT HEART starts off with the guitar picking interchanged with the pulses of the bass drums. Once the singing starts, drummer Matt Del Duca starts drumrolling on a cymbal. This song presents an honest prayer to "re-arrange my priorities/ My life has got to change/ Oh I wanna please the One who knows me, really knows me...so I can know I've got a right heart before the Lord."

This album is due out this month. When it is available, it will be available through Heaven's Metal.

GUITAR PICKS

Did you know Ronnie James Dio sang on Kerry Livgren's solo album, SEEDS OF CHANGE? He sang and did a great job, one of his best I might add, on THE MASK OF THE GREAT DECEIVER and LIVE FOR THE KING. They're totally great. SEEDS OF CHANGE is available on CBS Records.

Send in your picks for your favorite Christian guitarist.

STEVE CAMP

Steve Camp's message is heavy metal. It's serious. It's loud. His music is rock 'n' roll. Any metal fan should enjoy the volume and force Camp puts out in concert. He has one full-fledged hard, metal-rock song, the title-track to his IT'S A DYING WORLD album. You could say that Steve is the modern-day Keith Green. He has been touring with Rick Cua and Rob Frazier on what they're calling the "Shake Up" tour, which is what they're trying to do to their audiences. The following interview should showcase this attitude.

++Well Steve, what's God been tellin' ya lately?

"The main thrust of what I feel needs to happen today is that Christians are basically lukewarm and have not made an impact at all on their generation. I think We're starting to see some headway there, but people have not been taught on what it really means to live the Christian life. They've been evangelized, but they haven't been given the tools, the handles to live by. Part of it is our own fault, for our own laziness spiritually. Part of it is we haven't had the models to follow. The pedestals are empty when it comes to Christian leadership today. What we're doing is trying to provide some sort of leadership direction for people to follow. Not setting ourselves up as as example, but pointing them to Christ in a way that will make sense and translate well in their everyday lives.

++Kind of along the lines, Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ."

"Yeah. I feel like everyone should have a Paul and a Timothy at any given point in their lives. Someone not only to disciple, but someone to disciple them. One characteristic of a disciple of Christ is that always that he or she is a learner. So, we need to have that constant stream, input spiritually, into our lives. Because people aren't getting it, especially a lot of the folks which I sing to, which are the 13 to 21 year olds, they're turning to other places to get the input. When people are hungry, they'll eat anything and if we're not feeding them Christ, they'll get their intake of food as it were, spiritually, from other sources that aren't so good. That concerns me.

"If I stay daily listening to God through His Word, listening to Christ and read it all, the periodicals, stay in touch with the news shows and any kind of formats that will keep me up to date with current events; I cannot help but be somewhat filled with urgency and concern and compassion for people today and their plight. When we did the CAUSE project, a lot of people, all they saw was an opportunity possibly to make a name for themselves, or all they saw was people that were in a different land that needed help. Outside the recording studio that night, we had, just a few blocks away, people who could not eat that day. We failed to see the street people or the bums, or whatever you want to call 'em, that were living on the street as people that not only Christ died for, but people that have tremendous potential to be saved and live for the Lord.

"I think just when we stay in the Word of God our eyesight spiritually becomes keen and becomes extremely sharp to a point where we're not just seeing people consumed in their problems, but we're seeing them as ones created by the Lord that have an eternal decision, a Heaven and Hell choice, and we need to go to them and radically demonstrate what Jesus Christ can do in our lives in matters of eternal things.

++What would you like to tell the Heaven's Metal reader, most of which are Christians that use their records to witness to their friends?

"Metal music is a very radical form of music. It's a very agressive form. Adults that do not understand it say that 'it's just used to cause rebellion.' I'd say to them, 'Use it to cause rebellion against hell. Use it to cause rebellion on the world that's trying to conform people against Jesus Christ.'

"Make sure you choose your metal representatives well. That you're just not excited over the style, but that you really find people that not only have tremendous energy and urgency stylistically, but also scripturally, biblically, they're true, they're right. Examine carefully the type of artist that you're giving to people. Use it as a cause of rebellion against hell and against the world."

++How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for you?

"I would say that, in the areas of compromise, the Lord would really keep me from compromising the message I feel He's given me to say right now. That He'd keep me sharp and bold for Him in a time when it seems like Christian artists want to water down the gospel in order to make if more palatable, for people to buy. I went and saw Motley Crue a while back in Dallas last fall. I was really impressed with those guys from the standpoint that they didn't make any apologies for what they were doing. They did not back down one bit for their type of lifestyle and no compromise for what they were doing. They were more sold out, as it were, to their own sin than a lot of Christians are to the Lord. I think that people will respect us, not only musically, but what we say will make an impact only if we choose not to compromise what we're doing. That's one thing I think we as an entire industry need prayer for, but I would just say preventative prayer for myself, that that would not happen."

++Do you plan on doing anything as agressive and loud as IT'S A DYING WORLD in the near future?

"Yeah. The next album will be much more agressive." Bring it on, Steve. Check out his albums and pick and choose from his rockier tunes such as UPON THIS ROCK, SQUEEZE, FIRE AND ICE and WHAT WOULD THE DEVIL SAY from the FIRE AND ICE album and HOLDING ON TO YOU and the title-track from IT'S A DYING WORLD.

Cua cont'd

I do that. If the Lord puts it on my heart, then I want to deal with it, otherwise no. Just to be really aware of what the Lord wants."

Rick's newest album, as yet unnamed, will be due out in September. "It's gonna be a real rocker. We're excited about it. We've got a pretty big Fall tour scheduled, starting in October of '86 running right thru the next summer. I'll be headlining and I want to get a good strong special-guest situation going."

++How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for you?

"That I continually hear God's voice. If I hear from the Lord and I keep myself open to hearing from God, then I'll be in good shape. When I get either too lazy to pray or if I'm just not hearing the Lord clearly, that's when things can go haywire. If the reader just prays that I keep in real tight communion with the Lord, we're gonna be fine. Just that prayer support, prayerfully supporting what I do. That really helps a lot."

Golgatha cont'd

++Anything else you'd like to say to the readers of Heaven's Metal?

Adam:Just keep praying for us.

Gary:We definitely need prayer. There are alot of trials in this kind of situation. Satan will try to come against you in alot of ways.

Adam:We need prayer too for financial provision. Right now we're doing O.K., kinda. We're paying for this place (the rehearsal studio), but there is alot more we need to do and get done. We know that God's called us to do this and we know He is going to provide. What we really need is prayer that The Body of Christ in this area supports us. Support for the Christian rock bands in the San Francisco Bay Area is virtually none, except for a few spots. It's like we are pretty much on our own. God is on our side and He is providing, but we need bodies in attendence.

REPENT!

What does it mean? The dictionary says: "To turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life; to change one's mind; or to feel sorrow." The Bible teaches that repentance comes from being sorrowful about your sin; not a sorrow that makes you regret what you've done just because you've been caught. It is a sorrow that makes you feel so bad that you've done wrong in God's eyes that you want to avenge that wrong by turning from that sin and turning to God. (2 Corinthians 7:9-11)

God wants you to repent. "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

What happens when you repent? Your sins are forgiven. "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19) Your behavior changes. Turning from sin means that you don't repeat that sin. You turn around and walk towards God's will. "They should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance." (Acts 26:20)

Can you get into Heaven without repenting? "I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

After you have repented and experienced the miracle of having your sins forgiven, you need to tell others about repentance. "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem." (Luke 24:46-47)

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Send $4 to Doug Van Pelt, 502 Texas Ave, Austin, TX 78705. The subscription rates have gone up, but you will get more for your money. If you're not happy with the increase, please write and tell me why. Also, I will be moving on May 31st, so you might want to wait until the next issue to get the new address. If you want to trust the mail system, go for it. I'll get all my mail forwarded. Thanks for the prayer. So you can see, Heaven's Metal is growing and things are happening.

All you metal-heads need to check out Phil Keaggy's new album, GETTING CLOSER. He has some subdued hammer-on licks in songs like SOUNDS and MOVIE. If you like great guitar playing, you should appreciate one of the best.

When talking to Rick Cua, one of Phil's buddies, I asked him if Phil was ever gonna do a metal album. He said, "I don't think so. He has a ball playing everything. He loves to play it, but I think it's too hard for him." (Hard as in sound, not difficulty)

Check out the guitar work in MOMENT BY MOMENT on Matthew Ward's new album. It should get your mouth to drop open in typical metal amazement, just like Oz Fox likes to do during his leads. Matthew has a great voice. Too bad he doesn't do more rock 'n' roll.

For similar subdued metal licks, check out PERFECT TIMING and HABIT OF HATE by Sweet Comfort Band on their PERFECT TIMING album. Randy Thomas, who currently fronts Allies, did the guitar work there.

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